

10/080744

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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid flow sensing apparatus, comprising:

a flow-responsive element projecting into a fluid flow path;

a magnet coupled to the flow responsive element for generating a magnetic field; and

a position sensor in communication with the element to detect a change in the magnetic field caused by a position change of the element in response to a fluid flow.

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2. (Original) The fluid flow sensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus has a sensitivity that is generally inversely related to a pressure generated by the fluid flow.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

the flow-responsive element can change position in more than one direction.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

the deformable element deforms when the fluid flow is at a rate of between about -10 l/min.

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5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

the sensor is in communication with a fluid flow controller.

Claims 6-18 cancelled.

19. (Currently Amended) A fluid flow sensing apparatus comprising:

a flow-responsive element projecting into a fluid flow path; said element being supported at a  
zero-flow position in response to a fluid flow; said element further being biased into the zero-  
flow position in the absence of a fluid flow;

a magnet coupled to the flow responsive element; and

a ~~position~~ sensor for detecting a change in position of the ~~flow responsive element relative to~~  
~~the zero-flow position~~ magnet.

20. (Original) The flow sensing apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus has a sensitivity  
that is generally inversely related to a pressure generated by the fluid flow.

21. (Currently Amended) A flow sensing apparatus comprising:

a mask portion;

a hose, the hose cooperating with the mask portion to define an air pathway;

a deformable element projecting into the air pathway;

a magnet coupled to the deformable element; and

a ~~position~~ sensor adapted to detect a position change of the magnet deformation in the  
deformable element.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ~~position~~ sensor includes a Hall effect sensor.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the deformable element includes a paddle section and a torsion strip.

24. (Currently Amended) A flow sensing apparatus comprising:

a fluid pathway;

a deformable element projecting into the fluid pathway, the deformable element including a paddle section and a torsion strip section;

a magnet coupled to the torsion strip section; and

a ~~position~~ sensor adapted to detect ~~deformation in the deformable element~~ movement of the magnet.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~position~~ sensor includes a Hall effect sensor.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the ~~position~~ sensor is adapted to communicate with a gas delivery device.